

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln No.: 09/996,208
Applicants: Gregory W. Cox et al.
Filed: November 28, 2001
METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR SELF-LINK ASSERTING
APPARATUS
TC/A.U.: 2665
Examiner Justin M. Philpott

Confirmation No. 1240

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

2/10/03
Date

Steven G. Parmelee
Registration No. 28,790
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Docket No.: CML00090N (69611)
Customer No.: 22242

AFFIDAVIT UNDER 37 CFR 1.132 OF NARAYANAN VENKITARAMAN

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Being under oath, the undersigned affiant hereby states as follows:

1. My name is Narayanan Venkitaraman. I am presently employed by Motorola, Inc. at 1301 E. Algonquin Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60196 as a Principal Staff Engineer. I have an undergraduate Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science from Anna University in Chennai, India. I also have a Master of Science in Computer Science from The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. I have worked as an engineer in the general field of communications networking since at least 1998.

2. I have reviewed the patent application entitled Method and Apparatus For Self-Link Asserting Apparatus as filed by Gregory Cox et al., which bears application number

09/996,208 and Motorola's docket number CML00090N (hereinafter "the Patent Application"). The following comments are based upon that review and my prior education, knowledge, and experience.

3. With respect to the language:

[W]herein an address prefix serves as a component of addresses on a communication link to allow endpoints and routers to generate new addresses for use on that communication link and wherein the router needs a new address prefix when no address prefix has been previously established for the identified active communication link

I believe that the Patent Application is enabling to one skilled in the art with respect to this language. For example, paragraph 0011 of the Patent Application makes specific reference in this regard as follows:

Pursuant to one approach, the router can monitor each active communication link to determine whether any other router is presently supporting that link. Pursuant to another approach, the router can directly solicit other routers on each active link to ascertain the same information. When an active communication link has other router support, the router can automatically self configure the router interface that couples to that communication link with an IPv6 address composed from an IPv6 address prefix given by another router and an existing unique numerical identifier for that interface such as an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) EUI-64 identifier which is often based on the Media Access Control (MAC) address of the interface. For example, this composition can be performed in a manner similar to the method described for an endpoint to compose an IPv6 address given in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request for Comments (RFC) 2462, "IPv6 Stateless Address Autoconfiguration." When no address prefix is available, the router can automatically flag that interface as needing a new address prefix.

In addition to the plainly applicable information provided in this paragraph, the IPv6 standard specifically mentioned in this paragraph is clearly understood by those skilled

in the art as supporting the notion that an address prefix serves as a component of addresses. More particularly, section 5.5 of the specifically mentioned (RFC)2462 makes specific provisions in this regard. This same reference also provides clear enabling support for the concept of having endpoints and routers generate new addresses (which is often known by those skilled in the art as "stateless address autoconfiguration"). I note in particular that (RFC)2462 specifies, in its introduction:

The stateless mechanism allows a host to generate its own addresses using a combination of locally available information and information advertised by routers. Routers advertise prefixes that identify the subnet(s) associated with a link, while hosts generate an "interface identifier" that uniquely identifies an interface on a subnet. An address is formed by combining the two.

Taking both the Patent Application contents and information as is otherwise known and available to those skilled in the art, I firmly believe that one of average skill in the art would understand the above information, including particularly the function of prefixes and the generation of new addresses using prefixes, sufficient to enable their making and practicing of an apparatus that accords with the indicated language.

4. With respect to the language:

[W]herein a router advertises a prefix on an identified active communication link by sending a message containing the prefix to all nodes present on the communication link

I believe that the Patent Application is enabling to one skilled in the art with respect to this language. Again, the previously referenced (RFC)2462 provides clear foundation to one of average skill in the art in this regard. For example, the earlier quoted language from the introduction of this reference specifically discusses "advertising a prefix." As to "sending a message containing the prefix to all nodes present on the communication link, (RFC)2462 at section 5.5.1 clearly states, "Router Advertisements are sent periodically to the all-nodes multicast address." Taking both the Patent Application contents and information as is otherwise known and available to those skilled in the art, I firmly believe that one of average skill in the art would understand the above

information, including particularly the advertisement of a prefix by a router by sending a message containing the prefix to all nodes present on the communication link, sufficient to enable their making and practicing of an apparatus that accords with the indicated language.

5. With respect to the language:

[W]herein a router supports an active communication link by advertising an address prefix on that communication link and by facilitating packet-forwarding activities between the communication links via the router

I believe that the Patent Application is enabling to one skilled in the art with respect to this language. Packet forwarding activities are a well-known function of routers. I firmly believe that one of even less-than-average skill in the art would know and understand that routers engage in packet-forwarding activities between their interfaces.

Furthermore, I note that the Patent Application brings this out in paragraph 0002 which reads:

Network routers are well understood in the art and ordinarily function to forward messages to and/or from other hosts and routers. A router generally has two or more network interfaces into which connections to a link can be coupled. A link may typically comprise several devices interconnected by a networking hub such as an Ethernet hub. A router receives packets of information on these connections and retransmits them through other network interfaces according to decisions it makes about which packets to retransmit and the interface on which to retransmit those packets. Routers are used to connect networks, such as local area networks and the Internet, to each other.

where one of average skill in the art would readily understand and appreciate that "message" as used in this paragraph includes "packet." Taking both the Patent Application contents and information as is otherwise known and available to those skilled in the art, I firmly believe that one of average skill in the art would understand the above information, including particularly the support of an active communication link by a router by advertising an address prefix on that link by facilitating packet-forwarding

activities between the links via the router, sufficient to enable their making and practicing of an apparatus that accords with the indicated language.

6. Further Affiant sayeth not.



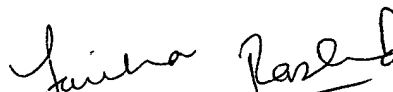
NARAYANAN VENKITARAMAN

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF)

I hereby certify that, before me, a Notary Public for the County and State
aforementioned, personally appeared NARAYANAN VENKITARAMAN, personally
known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and
acknowledged that he executed it.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Date: Feb 9th, 2005



Notary Public
My Commission Expires

